

Closure of post offices

884. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of functioning post offices have been closed as a measure of economy;

(b) whether this reduction of post offices been introduced first in Tamil Nadu, if so, how many post offices have been closed down so far and how many more are yet to be done;

(c) the alternative arrangement made to substitute this facility enjoyed for the last 6 to 7 decades;

(d) whether in the present process of reduction, there would be only one post office for more than 2 km. Radius; and

(e) would umpteen number of facilities in existence be withdrawn in the name of economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Telephone exchanges in Rajasthan

885. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges functioning in Rajasthan and their exchange-wise capacity as on date;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the present capacity of the existing telephone exchanges and also to open some new telephone exchanges;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to exhaust the waiting list in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, 2374 telephone exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are functioning in Rajasthan (as on 1.10.2006) with total capacity of 22,75,472 lines.

Two new telephone exchanges have already been opened during the current financial year as below:—

(i) Todi Nagar in Sikar SSA with 944 lines;

(ii) Rupa Ki Nangal in Jaipur with 128 lines;

Since enough telephone capacity is already available in fixed line segment, there is no plan to expand the capacity further.

(d) Most of the waiting list in Rajasthan is in remote and scattered areas. To wipe out this waiting list, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology equipment is mainly planned during 2006-07. Out of 327 WLL stations planned, 81 are already under installation.

Percentage of rural tele-density

†886. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average, the availability of telephones in the rural belts of the country comes to only 2 per cent;

(b) if not, the percentage thereof;

(c) whether Government have set any target to increase this percentage; and

(d) if so, the details of the target set and the planning to achieve the target?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.